

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 PA-01 ACDA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 861

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY ANTANANERIVO

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY FOILS COUP PLOT; THIRTY  
ARRESTED AND ARMS SEIZED

REF: VICTORIA 352 (DTG 250555Z APR 78)

1. CLOSING SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES AND  
MOVEMENTS OF THE SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN WAS DRAMATICALLY IN-  
TERRUPTED AT 2000 APRIL 29 WHEN GOS MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE JACQUES HODOUL READ FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY  
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS: QUOTE

THIS EVENING A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED  
BY THE POLICE FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL CACHES OF LARGE  
QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS. THE OPERATION STARTED AT SIX  
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O'CLOCK AFTER CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT A COUNTER COUP WAS BEING  
PLANNED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT WHILE PRESIDENT RENE IS ON  
OVERSEAS TOUR IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

CONCRETE EVIDENCE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE DEPOSED PRESIDENT JAMES  
MANCHAM AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OUSTED GOVERNMENT IN JUNE  
LAST YEAR ARE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS  
NOW, THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO OBTAIN FINANCE, MERCENARIES, ARMS

AND AMMUNITION IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THEIR AGGRESSION AGAINST THE STATE.

THERE ARE ALSO EVIDENCE THAT MERCENARIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE NOW IN A NEIGHBOURING STATE. A 290 AND HALF TON PASSENGER SHIP, 45 METRES LONG, PURCHASED FOR 1.8 MILLION SHILLINGS ON THE NAME OF A DESTITUTE SEYCHELLOIS LIES AT MOBASSA PORT READY TO TRANSPORT THE MERCENARIES AND EQUIPMENTS FOR THE OPERATION.

OUR SECURITY SERVICES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ALL THE DEVELOPMENTS RIGHT FROM THE TIME THE PLAN WAS INITIATED BY THE ENEMIES. BUT IF NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BEFORE, IT IS BECAUSE WE WERE AWARE OF THE MOVEMENTS OF EVERYONE.

OVER A MONTH AGO WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE TRAINING OF MERCENARIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THESE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. WE WERE ALSO FULLY AWARE OF THE PART PLAYED BY INDIVIDUALS HERE IN SEYCHELLES.

IN RECENT WEEKS THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHY WE CARRIED OUT CERTAINS EXERCISES AND TOOK SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS AS REGARD TO SECURITY. THIS WAS BECAUSE WE WERE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT THE ENEMIES WERE PLOTING. THESE EXERCISES INVOLVED THE ARMY, POLICE, MILITIA AND GROUPS OF OTHER PEOPLE ALL OVER THE ISLANDS. THESE CO-ORDINATED FORCES ARE NOW READY TO COUNTER ANY POSSIBLE ATTACK. THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES WILL REMAIN ALERT AND READY TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE. WE ARE NOW DETERMINED TO INFLICT A SIMILAR DEFEAT ON OUR ENEMIES IN THE MANNER OF THOSE DEFEATED IN THE "BAY OF PIGS" IN THE YEAR 1962 WHEN CUBA WAS ATTACKED BY MERCENARIES. IT IS REGRETABLE THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY HAVE FOUND CONFIDENTIAL

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IT NECESSARY TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THESE ACTIVITIES AGAINST OUR PEOPLE; SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY RESULT IN THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, DEATH OF INNOCENT CHILDREN AND OTHER PEOPLE AND BRING ABOUT A CHAOTIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

OUR CHOICE HAS BEEN EITHER TO ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN OR TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS WHICH WE NOW HAVE TAKEN.

IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO HURT ANYONE BUT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS COUNTRY IS ALLOWED TO LIVE IN PEACE AND CARRY OUT ITS DEVELOPMENT UNIMPEDED IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE.

IT IS ALSO THE HOPE OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT NO ONE WILL ATTEMPT ANY ACTS OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE. ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WILL BE DEALT WITH PROMPTLY AND FIRMLY.

INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING AND FURTHER ARRESTS MAY BE MADE. MEANWHILE EVERYONE IS ASKED TO REMAIN CALM AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

THE PRESIDENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND HE IS FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

"LET NO ONE ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT WE ARE ASLEEP AND THAT HE WILL DISTROY US WHILE WE SLEEP. SINCE THE 5TH OF JUNE THE SEYCHELLOIS ARE A REVOLUTINARY PEOPLE AND THEREFORE WILL NOT SLEEP AGAIN."

THESE WORDS ARE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN A SPEECH DELIVERED ON THE

29TH OF JUNE 1977, ON THE OCCASSION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF  
OUR INDEPENDANCE. UNQUOTE

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER SESSION ADJOURNED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LAND USE MAXIME FERRARI TOLD CHARGE THAT SECURITY FORCES  
HAD FURTHER STEPPED UP VIGILANCE(REPORTED REFTTEL) SINCE APRIL  
27 DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT RENE ON OFFICIAL VISITS TO PRC AND  
NORTH KOREA BUT GOS AWARE FOR WEEKS THAT " SOMETHING WAS IN THE WIND"

.  
FERRARI SAID MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BERLOUIS, WHO PERSONALLY  
DELIVERED COMMUNIQUE, TOLD HIM THIRTY HAD BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING  
ROBERT FRICHOT AND DAN PAYET, TWO FORMER M.P.'S FROM DEPOSED PRES-  
DENT MANCHAMS'S SDP PARTY. ANOTHER SEYCHELLES DELEGATE AT CON-  
FERENCE SAID HE EXPECTS TOTAL OF "AT LEAST FIFTY SEYCHELLOIS" TO  
BE ARRESTED BY TOMORROW. IN TELECON, POLICE COMMISIONER PILLAY  
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SAID THAT CONDITIONS WERE PRESENTLY CALM, NO CURFEW WOULD BE  
IMPOSED AND IMPLIED SOME NON-SEYCHELLOIS MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE  
ARRESTED. WITH REGARD TO SHIP IN MOMBASSA, HE SAID TO BEST HIS  
KNOWLEDGE IT WAS STILL IN PORT AND THAT GOS WOULD KNOW " THE  
MINUTE IT SAILED".

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## Message Attributes

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